

Community News

February-March 2005

An ESOL Initiative for the BNL Residential Community

Editor, Jennifer Lynch

Community Spotlight: Patricia Williams

by Diane Greenberg,
BNL Media & Communications Office



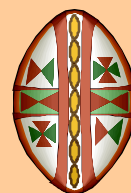
Patricia Williams

Patricia Williams has been named manager of the Safety & Health Services Division. In her new position, Williams is responsible for managing 25 people and a yearly budget of approximately \$3.2 million. The Safety & Health Services Division oversees safety engineering, industrial hygiene and chemical management for the Laboratory's approximately 2,700 employees and its contractors and visitors. It assures compliance with the U.S. Department of Energy's orders and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health standards, and monitors the workplace for all forms of non-radiological hazards to workers, such as chemicals, magnetic fields, confined space, ergonomics, heat stress, traffic, and electrical hazards.

The division also monitors and analyzes all reported accidents resulting in injuries at the workplace to prevent future accidents and make the Laboratory as safe as possible.

'My goal is to assure that the Lab achieves its objective to make safety personal at the Laboratory,' Williams said. "Through continued management commitment and active involvement of employees, guests and contractors in workplace safety, we will develop a robust safety culture and see consistent improvement in our performance. We do a good job of identifying and controlling non-routine hazards. As safety becomes a personal value, we will pay more attention to the routine things like making sure our seatbelts are on, following the speed limit and wearing our personal protective equipment. We'll practice safe habits all the time – at work and at home."

Throughout her 17 years at Brookhaven Lab, Williams has championed numerous safety initiatives, including, most recently, a pilot project *cont. on next pg.*



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**Begins on
March 20th!**

Patricia Williams Continued...

in which three Laboratory organizations have registered to be part of the OHSAS 18001, which is an internationally recognized system for assessing occupational health and safety management systems that helps companies to reduce risk and improve overall safety performance. By October 2006, Williams plans to have the entire Laboratory registered under OHSAS 18001.

Williams earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Stony Brook University in 1985 and became a board-certified safety professional in 1993. She went on to earn a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Manhattan College in 1995. She was an assistant project engineer for J.T. Falk & Company, Inc., in New York City, and was a safety-engineering intern for the U.S. Army Materiel Command in Texas before joining Brookhaven Lab in 1987 as a safety engineer.

After several promotions, Williams joined the Laboratory's Plant Engineering Division in 1994 as manager of the Safety, Training & Quality Group. She then worked her way up through the ranks to become manager of the Environment, Safety, Health, Training & Quality Group for facilities and operations in 2001. She held that position until she took on her current responsibilities.

Among her many significant achievements, Williams has reduced Plant Engineering's personnel injuries by 80 percent over an eight-year period. She also has been actively involved in numerous committees at Brookhaven, including those focused on traffic safety, work planning and diversity. She is currently Co-Chair for Brookhaven Women in Science, a not-for-profit organization at the Laboratory whose aim is to promote the advancement of women in science.

Blizzard '05



"I came prepared!" Anna Segalov, originally from Israel, stands knee-deep in the fluffy stuff but is bundled up good.



"My first blizzard! Yay!" Shirley Yang, of China, was thrilled by her first blizzard!



"Mom, what's all this cold, white stuff?" Miriam Rondon of Venezuela introduces snow to her son, Mike.





Why I Read Books

by Hyo Jeong Kim ("JJ")
(Korea)

I came from Korea four years ago. I had been living for a long time in Korea. It was difficult for me to adjust to a new culture. There are always new things that I am learning day by day.

At the beginning, I was afraid to remain by myself at home. When the telephone rang, all I could say was, "Hello." I couldn't answer anymore. I couldn't understand what to say in English. As time went on, I had to talk to someone in English. In order to adjust to the new culture, I thought that I needed to read

books that I could borrow and copy freely at the library. I used to enjoy reading books in Korea.

At first, I could only borrow children's books that I could understand easily. I read lots of books, about Valentine's Day, Easter, Christmas, and so on. I felt that books were engaging my interest, imparting useful information, and motivating me to want to learn English.

To conclude, I think that it is very important for people to read books to adjust to a new culture and to learn English.



New Year's in Indonesia: A Post Tsunami Report

by former ESOL Student, Lessy Wayan



New Year's Eve in Indonesia was not as glowing as usual. Instead of fireworks, the people in Jakarta used candles and prayed on the street to embrace the New Year to show their solidarity and sadness. More than 165,000 people died in Aceh and north Sumatra because of the Tsunami and earthquake. Many of them are my good friends. I can't imagine how sad if it were one of my relatives who lost a spouse and three kids in a wink. How empty my good friend must have felt, who just got married 5 months ago, then lost her husband and had a miscarriage because they were attacked by the tsunami.

Now Indonesia is in recovery. We have gotten much aid from many of our friends around the world. With this letter I would like to thank all of my friends in the United States who showed their LOVE by their prayers and aid to us in Indonesia.

Well, I'm hoping everything will get better...soon.

Regards,
Lessy

New Beginner
ESOL class,
Thursday, 11-12:00.



Want to be more comfortable speaking in public?

BNL *Toastmasters* will be holding a special lunchtime meeting on **Wednesday March 16th at noon in Berkner Hall, Room D. Come by and see how we practice giving speeches together.** Speakers of all languages are welcome - we currently have several members who are non- native English speakers and love to speak at our club.

Find out how fun and easy public speaking can be. Please visit our website for more information about Toastmasters.

<http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/toastmstrs/default.htm>

February is African- American History Month



Sarah Assamagan demonstrates African dance movements.

BNL's Afro-American Culture Club Held a "Rejuvenation through Hope" African Healing Dance Workshop on Feb. 24 during lunchtime at Brookhaven Center.

The event was sponsored by the BERA African American Culture Club.



Sarah Assamagan led participants through relaxing stretches and a healing burden-cleansing ritual. She also taught some basic African dance movements. Juanita McKinney demonstrated and assisted during the workshop.

Photos compliments of Joseph Vignola



Juanita McKinney (L) and Sarah Assamagan facilitated a healing African Healing Dance Workshop for about 12 participants.

March is Women's History Month

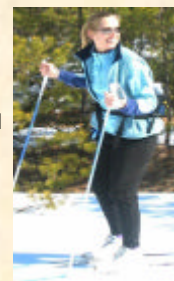
Jennifer Lynch, ESOL Program Coordinator, organized an interview with a very charismatic local woman for her ESOL Advanced Level evening class in honor of Women's History Month.

Allison Dunton is a local school teacher. She has spent years as an international traveling scuba instructor. Not only that, she was the first female submarine pilot in Asia. For three years Allison ran her own swim school in Bali.

Allison delighted the students with her scuba and submarine tales and educated everyone about the geography and cultural aspects of the many countries she has lived in.

Students practiced their interviewing skills and enjoyed the opportunity to converse with such an ambitious woman during Women's History Month.

A Real "Go-Getter!" Allison Dunton enjoys traveling the world and challenging herself by learning new things and teaching others what she knows.



Go Green on St. Patty's Day!



Saint Patrick's Day

On March 17, many Americans — including non-Irish people — celebrate St. Patrick's Day. In the fifth century, Patrick was a bishop of the Catholic Church. He brought Christianity to Ireland through his teaching.

Why do Americans celebrate an Irish saint? Probably because of the large immigration from Ireland to the USA. Some say that on St. Patrick's Day, "Everybody is a little bit Irish." In fact, today, almost 39 million Americans claim some Irish ancestry. This is 8-10 times the current population of Ireland! While Irish-Americans can be either Catholic or Protestant, celebration of St. Patrick's Day is usually seen as an act of connection to the (mostly Catholic) Irish Republic.

In the US, St. Patrick's Day is a non-religious celebration of Irish culture. The spirit is one of fun and friendliness. You do not have to be Irish to join in. Your children may tell you that they are supposed to wear something green that day. It's not a real school rule, but wearing green is a way of showing appreciation of Irish culture — its spirit, its music, its writing. But you will not offend anyone if you do nothing. Gifts and cards are not part of the tradition of this day (although you will find plenty of green items to buy if you want to). St. Patrick's Day is not a legal or business holiday.

March brings out the "wild and crazy" in lots of Americans. On St. Patrick's Day, you'll see parades, especially in cities with a large Irish-American population. Many bars, especially Irish-style pubs, have special celebrations. If you are offered a green beer, don't panic — it's just green food coloring!

St. Pat's Symbols

You will see many signs of St. Patrick's Day this month. Some are symbolic of St. Patrick's teaching, but many are important simply because they are Irish:

Shamrocks. St. Patrick used a shamrock (three-leaf clover) to illustrate the Trinity, a core aspect of Christianity. The Trinity refers to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three who are One. A four-leaf clover is sometimes seen too, a good luck symbol.



Pipes, Fiddles, and Harps. The harp is an Irish symbol of sorrow and joy. These two emotions have inspired Irish writing and music for centuries.



Little Men in Hats. These men in green clothes are a modern-day blend of the 19th century Irish farmer and the *leprechaun* (fairy) (pronounced LEP-ra-kon) that is said to live in Irish forests.



Pot of Gold. If you catch a leprechaun, he will offer you a pot of gold for his freedom. But be careful — he usually escapes before you get the gold!



Learn Japanese with Kyoko!

“Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu”

This greeting is only used in January especially for the first two weeks. New Year's Day is the biggest annual celebration for most Japanese. The images of New Year's Day for us are freshness, hopefulness and

brightness. "Omedetou" means congratulations in English. On New Year's Day and the following couple of days or weeks, to share our hopefulness for luckiness and for having a brilliant day again, we say this phrase to each other courteously with bowing.



Kyoko Sugihara
teaches a Japanese
class. You may contact her
at kyo@tessit.com for
information

“Hi, I’m Rick”~ Informality in the US

Recently I got on a small airplane to go on a trip. A young man stood at the bottom of the stairs, helping us onto the airplane. He got in, closed the door, and said, “Hi, I’m Rick and (pointing to the front) up there is my buddy Bill.” He reviewed the safety instructions, then sat down in the pilot’s seat and flew the plane.

Another day, I called Directory Assistance to find someone’s telephone number. The operator said, “Hello, this is Donna. May I help you?”

My daughter’s teacher sat on the edge of her desk, one hand in her pocket and a Coke in her other hand during her welcome speech at Open House.

Did the pilot think I would feel more comfortable if he acted like my “friend?” Does the telephone company think they can be more helpful by being more personal? Does my daughter’s teacher think learning will be improved if there is less social distance between parent and teacher? Apparently yes, because it is quite common in the US to be informal and use first (given) names with each other. Newcomers to the US may find this habit to be strange, disrespectful, or impolite.

This informality reflects two related American values: friendliness and equality in social relationships. Americans behave, at first anyway, in a very friendly way to strangers.

This friendliness may feel empty to you. Think of it instead as setting the stage for an equal social relationship that may develop. Americans think, “If you and I are on a first-name basis (we call each other by our given names), it means that we could be friends. Let’s assume we are socially equal to each other.”

There are some exceptions. People in a few professions are usually called by their title (like doctors, judges, military officers, and religious leaders). If someone is in your parents’ generation, or is your boss, begin by being more formal. But do not be surprised if those people ask you to call them by their first name immediately.

Of course, Americans do have ways of showing differences in social relationships. People with more status (by social position wealth, age, or sex, for example) tend to talk first, and interrupt others more. They get the attention of others more quickly. People laugh at their jokes more. Those with less status are more likely to hide or soften their anger around them. These are more silent (though just as powerful) ways of showing inequality.

But what you *call* someone is very obvious. So Americans like to appear equal, and keep open the possibility of a more equal relation.

Hospitality Welcomes You!

Hospitality Happenings by Cindy Ottemann, Hospitality Chairperson



Hospitality Bus Trip to Manhattan Saturday, March 12

The Hospitality Committee invites all BNLeers and their families to join a bus trip to Manhattan on Saturday, March 12 for a "do-as-you-like" trip. The luxury bus will leave from the Recreation Building in the apartment area at 9:30 a.m. and will leave the city at 5:00 p.m. The cost for adults is \$10, children 2-12, \$5; payments must be made in advance (cash only please). To make reservations and arrange payment, e-mail Hanna Herman at haniaherman@yahoo.com or phone 631-849-2249. Please join us for a fun day!

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 26



Announcing ... the Hospitality Committee's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, at 11 a.m. in the Recreation Bldg. Each child should bring 12 plastic eggs filled with soft candy or small toys, and their own Easter basket. Children will hunt for eggs and participate in a variety of springtime games and crafts. Parents are asked to bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Cindy Ottemann at cjottabb@optonline.net or 849-2646.

"Come join our Hospitality events – we look forward to meeting YOU!" Cindy Ottemann, Chair & Lisa Yang, Co-Chair.



We'll miss you Miho!

In February, Hospitality bid farewell to Miho Jinnouchi of Japan. L to R: Yuka Ikeda, with daughter Haruka, Kazuko Tabaru, Miho Jinnouchi, and Kazuko Watanabe.



HALF MOON COOKIES

Recipe from Anna Segalov

2 ½ cups all purpose flour
1 ¾ sticks butter [200 grams]
½ lb. sour cream
1/3 tsp. baking powder
1 egg white
sugar (for dipping)
marmalade (for inside)

Combine flour, butter, sour cream and baking powder. Add more flour if mixture is too sticky. Let it rest for half an hour. Preheat the oven to 400 F.

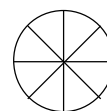
Divide the dough into 4 portions.

Roll out each portion into a circle shape until it is thin.

Divide the circle into 8 triangles. Put a little marmalade on each piece and roll it. After you have prepared all the cookies, place the sugar in one plate and the egg white in another (mixing it a little with a fork).

Dip the upper part of each cookie in the egg white and then in the sugar.

Place it on a baking tray and bake until golden brown.



Cut-Out the above
recipe from
Hospitality's *Cooking
& Craft Club*

English for Speakers of Other Languages Visits BNL Science Museum

On December 15, Jennifer Lynch, ESOL Program Coordinator, brought a group of ESOL students to the BNL Science Museum. Susan Sears, Science Museum educator, gave the class a tour and taught ESOL students vocabulary associated with spectroscopy (the study of light) and electricity. Everyone enjoyed the interactive and educational trip.



We Feel Smarter Now! L to R: Chen Xiao Ying, Susan Sears, Kun Qiam, Nancy Feng, Hyo Jeong Kim, Jing Nie, Jennifer Lynch, Rongmei Jia and Andrei Tchourine all look a little brighter after learning about spectrums. (Not pictured Chie Uematsu.)



Jing Nie touches "lightning in a globe." Enclosed gasses emit light in this plasmasphere exhibit.



How Shocking! Jennifer Lynch has a hair-raising experience touching the Tandem Van de Graaf, which emits static electricity.



Susan Sears, Science Museum Educator, (standing on right) teaches the students about the colors of the rainbow and spectroscopy.



Farwell to Alexander Solin, ESOL student & BNL physicist. Jouliya Kokhalskaya, ESOL tutor (on right) and Jennifer Lynch, ESOL Program Coordinator presented Alexander with a "Certificate of Achievement" for his dedication as an ESOL student. His classmate, Ekaterina Blednykh (not pictured) attended the small farewell gathering.



Valentine's Day

This year, the Annual ESOL Valentine's Day Party, held at the Recreation Building, was Co-Hosted with Hospitality. Jennifer Lynch, ESOL Program Coordinator, organized the event, which took place during a Hospitality Welcome Meeting on Tuesday, February 8. The event gave participants an understanding of the cultural traditions surrounding Valentine's Day. Decorations made by ESOL students and red chili lights made the lounge area festive and inspired the attendees to make very artistic Valentine's Day cards. There were delicious chocolates to sample and contests to win boxes of chocolate. Everyone had a love-ly time!



Yummy! Cindy Ottemann baked these Valentine's heart-shaped cookies with TLC (Tender Loving Care)!



"The Two Kazukos" ~ Kazuko Tabaru "KT" (on left) and Kazuko Watanabe "KW" were in charge of distributing raffle tickets.



L to R: Chen Xiao Ying, Jennifer Lynch and Mary O'Hara enjoyed making cards.



Check out our cards! L to R: Mary O'Hara, Chen Xiao Ying, Mari Sasaki, Kazuko Tabaru, Shirley Yang, Nancy Feng and Jing Nie.



BINGO! Participants played "Human Bingo." They had to ask each other a bunch of questions. It was a lot of fun and Shashi Somani (center) looks like she might have *BINGO!*

Hospitality Valentine's "Soup and Dance Party"
On Saturday, February 12, Hospitality hosted a Valentine's Day Party with a DJ for dancing, delicious soup, flowers for the tables and fun for the whole family!



BERA Events

Brooklyn Botanical Garden Cherry Blossom Festival!

Saturday 4/30 \$10pp

~NASCAR @ Dover, DE 6/5 &
9/25 \$110 per trip, per person

~Culinary Institute of America
Tuesday 7/5 \$55 pp with tour &
luncheon!

~Wicked!!! Hottest Broadway
Show 8/14 3pm show, \$70 rear
Mezzanine

Dates to be announced:

**Yankee's Tickets!! Met's
Tickets!! Duck's Tickets!
Intrepid/Circle Line Trip in NYC
Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty
BERA Family BBQ**

The
QOL/BERA/Recreation office is
sponsoring a

"Tax Assistance for Visiting Foreign Nationals" workshop

Wednesday, March 16 at noon,
Recreation Hall, Building 317

The presentation will be given by
Mark Israel, Fiscal Officer and
Deborah Johnson, Director of
Internal Audit & Oversight

**For registration and information
contact Christine Carter, X5090**

Happy (Lunar) New Year!



Beth Lin (3rd standing from right)
shows participants of the Hospitality
Cooking and Craft Club how to make
wontons for wonton soup in honor of
"Chinese New Year." Other countries
also celebrate the lunar New Year.

Email Lisa Yang at lisayang@optonline.com
or Kazuko Watanabe at nabekazu@mac.com for
more information about the Hospitality Cooking &
Craft Club.



Lisa Yang (left), Co-Chair
of the Hospitality
Committee, demonstrated
how to make "sweet sticky
rice cakes" the same day as
Beth Lin. Helping her is
Jing Rochman.



The *Community News* is a bi-monthly publication
produced by the *English for Speakers of Other
Languages* Office as a service for our visitors and
guests and their spouses and partners. Suggestions
or submissions are welcome. Please send your
ideas, letters, or requests for electronic/hardcopies
to lynch@bnl.gov, or Jennifer Lynch, Building
179B. Phone: 344-4894

Editor: Jennifer Lynch, *English for Speakers of
Other Languages* Program Coordinator

The deadline for the April~May issue is March 21.
If you are having an event in April or May and
would like it printed in the *Community News*,
please submit it by this date. *Thank you to all
who contribute to this newsletter.*